

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Combined meeting with Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 6:00pm
Police Station Community Room & Virtually
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

The meeting will be available for in person attendance and on Zoom – On March 29, 2023 Governor Healey signed into law Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide “adequate, alternative” access to remote meetings. This meeting of the Freetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted in person as well via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public can be found on the Town of Freetown’s website, freetownma.gov

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: downloading Zoom and entering the meeting ID below, calling the number listed below and entering the Meeting ID listed below, or by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/join> and entering the Meeting ID listed below.

Although in person attendance is available for this meeting every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website and YouTube Channel an audio or video recording, transcript. Or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81983932714?pwd=K3VodVN6b2pCWIE5WUpScDZXU3hPUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8393 2714

Passcode: 943059

One tap mobile

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• +1 689 278 1000 US

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• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

1 564 217 2000 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

1 386 347 5053 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

1 507 473 4847 US

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

1 669 444 9171 US

Call to Order

Selectmen Trevor Matthews called to order the meeting at 6:00pm. Also in attendance are Selectmen Jared Zager, Town Administrator Deb Pettey and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza. Selectmen Carlos Lopes is on via Zoom. Selectmen Matthews read Governor Healey's order regarding virtual meetings. He noted that the meeting would be recorded and posted to the Town's YouTube channel. He continued that we would be going into Executive Session for the reasons listed below and would return to open session.

- Motion to enter Executive Session and return to Open Session was made at 6:01pm by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

Executive Session

1. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) - to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – **Macomber v. Town of Freetown**

Combined Meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

2. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the following appointment:
 - a. Kayla Churchill to Finance Committee effective 2/21/24 - Annual Town Election 4/1/24

At 6:31pm Chair Margaret French having a quorum present called the Freetown Finance Committee meeting to order, also present is Kara Lees and on Zoom is Katie Calheta and Bob Alderson. Ms. French stated Ms. Churchill came to the Finance Committee meeting in December and presented a letter of interest. She asked if her long-term plan was to run for the Finance Committee at the next Annual Election and she said yes. The committee voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that she be appointed to the Finance Committee. Ms. Churchill did take out papers for the Finance Committee but did not return them. She will not be running for the Finance Committee in April and it seemed not to appoint someone on the committee for one month. Ms. Calheta asked why the papers were not submitted. Ms. Churchill stated she had enough signatures but the paper had foreign marks on the paper and that it disqualifies the signatures. After calling Francis Gavin's office she was told she could go in as a write in ballot. She is still planning to run. She is also running for Board of Selectmen. Ms. French stated there is a vote on the table to appoint Ms. Churchill to the Finance Committee. Bob Alderson-no, Katie Calheta-yes, Kara Lees-yes, Margret French-no, Emily Dors-no, Selectmen Lopes-no, Selectmen Zager-no, Selectmen Matthews-no. Motion to close the Finance Committee meeting was made by Emily-Anne Dors and seconded by Bob Alderson. All

in favor of adjourning, Carol Lees-yes, Bob Alderson-yes, Emily-Anne Dors-yes, Katie Calheta-yes, and Margaret French-yes and we are adjourned as of 6:44pm.

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

3. Acknowledge the following Reserve Fund transfers:
 - a. \$4,836.54 to Bristol County Agricultural School Assessment
 - b. \$396.00 to Old Colony Vocational Education Assessment
 - Selectmen Matthews acknowledged a and b above for Reserve Fund transfers
4. Discussion, and vote whether to approve, not release, the executive session minutes from 2/5/24
 - Motion made to approve, not release, the executive session minutes from 2/5/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
5. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the open session minutes from 2/5/24
 - Motion made to approve the open session minutes from 2/5/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
6. Discussion, and vote whether to open the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting Warrants for 6/3/24 for submissions on 2/21/24 8am – 4/4/24, 11am
 - Motion to open the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting Warrants for 6/3/24 for submissions on 2/21/24 8am – 4/4/24, 11am was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
7. Discussion, and vote on whether to adopt the Warrant for the 3/5/24 Presidential Primary and direct the Town Clerk to have said warrant duly advertised and posted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Town of Freetown, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 - Motion to adopt the Warrant for the 3/5/24 Presidential Primary and direct the Town Clerk to have said warrant duly advertised and posted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Town of Freetown, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
8. Discussion, and vote tasking the Police Chief, in consultation with the Town Clerk to determine the minimum number of Police Officers at the Presidential Primary on 3/5/24
- Motion that the Board of Selectmen hereby delegates is authority given under chapter 92 section 72 of the Acts of 2022 to detail a sufficient number of Police Officers or Constables for each building that contains polling places for one or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from interference with their duties and to aide in enforcing the laws relating to elections to the Chief of Police in consultation with the Town Clerk was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
9. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the ambulance abatements and writes offs for December 2023 in the amount of \$28,390.49 & January 2024 in the amount of \$173,423.18
- Motion to approve the ambulance abatements and writes offs for December 2023 in the amount of \$28,390.49 & January 2024 in the amount of \$173,423.18 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
10. Discussion and vote whether to provide freetownma.gov email addresses to comply with two factor requirements to:
- a. Andrea Lima
 - b. Jacqueline Garell
 - c. John Pye
 - d. Judy Reese
 - e. Arthur Poirier
 - Motion to provide freetownma.gov email addresses to comply with two factor requirements to a thru e was made by Selectmen Jager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
11. Discussion and vote whether to approve \$30,000 dollars in Bristol County ARPA funds for Sewer Line Engineering overages
- Motion to approve \$30,000 dollars in Bristol County ARPA funds for Sewer Line Engineering overages was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

12. Discussion, and vote on uses of the balance of Bristol County ARPA funds

Ms. Pettey stated Bristol County ARPA funds has decided they want a plan from us dictating how we are going to spend the remaining funds. Along with an application as of 6/30/24 or they will pull back any funds we have not allocated. They added Title One which allows us to use it for rehabilitation, reconstruction, demolition of properties. We have about \$105,000.00 left in unallocated ARPA Funds. We are getting a quote for 4 South Main Street which needs to be demolished. If we cannot use it for that, the next project would be for the schoolhouse rehabilitation, engineering and construction drawings.

- Motion to use the balance of the Bristol County ARPA funds is allocated towards first for 4 South Main Street and if not that then the schoolhouse was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

13. Discuss the FY25 Regional School Budget

The school committee met and presented the budget last Wednesday. They are asking for \$46,550, 959.00 an increase of 3.79% over last years. An increase of \$700,000.00 for Freetown.

14. Discussion, and vote whether to approve and sign the following purchase orders:

- a. Wilscof Trailer in the amount of \$242,112.94 for Council on Aging Pods
 - b. Modular Communications in the amount of \$335,753.59 for Radio Communications Project
 - c. Bear Communications Inc. in the amount of \$217,428.79 for Radio Communications Project
- Motion to approve a thru c purchase orders was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

15. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve and sign the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Bear Communications Inc. for installation services for the Radio Communications Project

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Bear Communications Inc. for installation services for the Radio Communications Project was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

16. Discussion, and vote whether to authorize overspending the snow removal account for fiscal year 2024

- Motion to authorize overspending the snow removal account for fiscal year 2024 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
17. Discussion, and vote whether to accept the donation in the amount of \$500.00 from Borges Bros. Trucking Inc. in support of Earth Day 2024 event
- Motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$500 from Borges Bros. Trucking Inc. in support of Earth Day 2024 event was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
18. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Banner Environmental for Non-Traditional Work Plan for 4 South Main Street, Assonet, MA
- Motion to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Banner Environmental for Non-Traditional Work Plan for 4 South Main Street, Assonet, MA was made by Selectmen Zager and Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

19. Ratify the acceptance of Donald P. Souza, Jr's resignation as Highway Laborer effective 2/5/24
- Motion to accept Donald P. Souza, Jr's resignation as Highway Laborer effective 2/5/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Matthews
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
20. Discussion, and vote whether to approve Sgt. Long's request for 111F, injured on duty status effective 2/5/24
- This has been stayed until the next meeting for Executive Session
21. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the re-appointment of Sandra M. DiLillo as Board of Registrar (Republican) effective 4/1/24-3/31/27
- Motion to approve the re-appointment of Sandra M. DiLillo as Board of Registrar (Republican) effective 4/1/24-3/31/27 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Matthews
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

22. Discuss the ballfield licenses

Selectmen Zager mentioned this has been going on for some time. There are a lot of moving parts to this. He has received some valuable input. The field hockey team has withdrawn their request. Little Fenway and the football field are content. We need to determine how we allocate the concession stands and the parking so that it is fair and who will be responsible for mowing the grass and the trash. There was damage to the batting cage by a car. We are waiting for the insurance to get back to us.

23. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the removal of the old shed and sign stand from the Long Pond Boat Ramp

We have a new sign in the front entrance and the old sign is not serving a purpose. The State is redoing the parking lot. There is a pad under the old shed which can be used for the Porta Jon location for safety issues.

- Motion to approve the removal of the old shed and sign stand from the Long Pond Boat Ramp was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

24. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the parking lot striping proposed by Department of Fish & Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access for the Long Pond Boat Ramp Parking Lot re-pavement project

- Motion to approve the parking lot striping proposed by Department of Fish & Game Office of Fishing and Boating Access for the Long Pond Boat Ramp Parking Lot re-pavement project was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

25. Discussion, and vote on location and funding for pickleball court

Suggestions of Hathaway Park. Central Park is under leases. Brian Almeida Co-Chair of Open Space and Recreational Advisory Committee suggested Hathaway Park and the beach area, they would really like to see both sides of town having access to a court.

- Motion to locate the pickleball court at Hathaway Park in place of the basketball court, funding it through the grant and any residual funding through Federal APRA funds was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

26. Discussion, and vote on next steps for Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee
Amanda Barlow Co-Chair of the Open Space and Recreational Advisory Committee spoke about meeting for three years and completed the Open Space Recreation Plan

which was approved by the State. They would like to propose to the Select Board that there is a permanent Open Space Committee put in place in town as written in the Open Space Plan. This committee worked vigilant over three years to get the plan moving and worked with SRPEDD along with other towns and boards. In order to effectively administer the plan, there should be an established body with the authority to execute the goals and the objectives, make decisions, facilitate and manage the implementation of the plan. These will be elected positions. Other towns have three or five member elected positions. More questions and next steps to come up in a future meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Old Business:

Potential discussion on pending items – action will not be taken at this meeting:

Public Input

The Board signed documents associated with tonight's meeting.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:35pm was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant

Exhibits and documents utilized by the Board during this meeting:

- Agenda
- Certificate of Appointment – Kayla Churchill
- Request for Transfers from the Reserve Fund
- Bristol County Agricultural High School Letter
- Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund
- Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School Letter
- Meeting Minutes for 2/5/24
- Memo - 2024 Presidential Primary Warrant
- Freetown Fire & Rescue – Comstar Abatements December 2023 & January 2024
- Memo – Freetownma.gov emails for COA Staff

- Purchase Order – Wilscot 2 - 52x24 Section Mod
- Purchase Order – Modular Communications - Communication Equipment
- Purchase Order – Bear Communications – Radio Equipment & Installation
- Agreement – Town of Freetown and Bear Communications Inc.
- Letter – Freetown Highway Department
- Agreement - Town of Freetown and Banner Environmental Services Inc.
- Banner Environmental Services Inc. Asbestos Survey Report
- Resignation Letter – Donald P. Souza Jr.
- Memo – Thomas Long – Injured on Duty Status
- Certificate of Appointment – Sandra M. DiLillo
- Ballfield Licenses – Questions and Feedback
- License Agreement – Town of Freetown & the Freetown Lakeville Athletic Association
- License Agreement – Town of Freetown & the Freetown – Lakeville Soccer Club Inc.
- License Agreement – Town of Freetown & the FreeLake Youth Softball Association, Inc.
- License Agreement – Town of Freetown & the Apponequet Junior Football, Inc.
- Exhibit A – KRR fields
- Exhibit B – Pocasset Park fields
- Email – Doug Cameron, Long Pond, Freetown Public Access Facility